

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, March 7, 1901

Volta Bureau, March 7, 1901. Dear Mabel: —

Have just heard that the General Deficiency Bill, containing—as a rider — the clause relating to the utilization of the Government Departments for the purposes of Research, has passed both House and Senate and IS NOW A LAW.

Mr. Walcott is pushing the whole Bureau of Research movement. The Washington Academy of Sciences (Board of Managers) have passed unanimously an important Resolution relating to the matter, which Mr. Walcott has just read to me by telephone. I cannot undertake to quote it until he sends me a copy. It is in the nature of a proposition to the George Washington Memorial Association to the effect that the two bodies — acting together — shall organize a corporation, modelled, I think, upon the Smithsonian, to be called “The George Washington Memorial Institution”.

The G. W. M. Association to put up a building and provide a site and the Washington Academy of Sciences to look after the scientific work of research carried on in the Government Departments under the provision of law just established.

The new corporation to be a body capable of receiving endowments and saying in effect to the generous minded public who are looking round for suitable objects to which to present donations and bequests — “BARKUS IS WILLIN”.

From loving husband Alec.

Library of Congress

P. S. Bell & Co. have just notified me that the American Security & Trust Co. have just deposited to our credit the dividend of the International Bell Telephone Co. amounting to:
— \$22,500.00

I will see Charlie at once and get him to make a temporary investment of \$15,000, so that we may be getting some interest for the money not required for current expenses. That will leave \$7,500 in the bank. Fortunately I have not yet given my note for \$4,000 and shall not do so now. We have bills here amounting to about \$3,500, which will leave \$4,000 in the bank from the International Bell Telephone Dividend, which together with the last balance of \$900 will leave \$4,900 available until our next dividends come in.

AGB